



FLU UPDATES

FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HCP FLU VACCINATION

The National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC), a working group of outside experts who assist the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) with vaccine policy issues, approved [recommendations](#) for reaching the Healthy People 2020 goal of 90% flu vaccine coverage for Health Care Personnel. The group proposed 5 recommendations:

- 1) Establish comprehensive influenza infection control programs that include education on how to prevent flu transmission with tools such as hand hygiene, cough etiquette, free access to flu vaccines, and information on the benefits and misconceptions of flu vaccines.
- 2) Integrate flu vaccine programs into existing flu prevention and occupational health programs.
- 3) Continue efforts to standardize methods on how to measure HCP vaccination rates.
- 4) Facilities that can't reach and maintain the 90% level with the first three steps should strongly consider requiring mandatory flu vaccination
- 5) Continued research on new and better flu vaccines

Related CIDRAP Article: [NVAC approves recommendations on health worker flu vaccination](#)

Mandatory Vaccinations

- [New Report Analyzes Mandatory Influenza Vaccination of the Health Care Workforce](#)
- [Advocates Say Flu Vaccine Should Be Mandatory For Health Workers](#)

VACCINES AND GUILLAIN-BARRÉ SYNDROME

A new study by the Kaiser Permanente Vaccine Study Center found that people who receive vaccines after previously having been diagnosed Guillain-Barré syndrome do not experience any flare-ups.

[Nerve disorder does not recur after later vaccines: study](#)

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO VACCINATE

CDC Expert [Video Commentary](#) on Medscape

It's Not Too Late to Vaccinate (patients with cardiac disease)

By Dr. Joseph Bresee

ANTIVIRAL RECOMMENDATIONS

A recent [review](#) of randomized clinical trial data for the influenza neuraminidase inhibitor antiviral medications, and two related commentaries, raised questions about the value of antiviral medications for the prevention and treatment of influenza. On February 7, 2012, CDC [responded to these questions](#): "After careful consideration of all available evidence, CDC guidance on the use of antiviral medications remains unchanged." CDC continues to recommend the use of neuraminidase inhibitor antiviral drugs (oral oseltamivir and inhaled zanamivir) as an important adjunct in the prevention and treatment of influenza.

- A summary of CDC antiviral guidance for the 2011-2012 influenza season is available [here](#).
- The full recommendations are available [here](#).
- Additional information is available in the Key Points distributed with this edition of FluBytes.

H5N1 STUDY CONTROVERSY

- [Undetected H5N1 cases seem few, but questions persist](#)
- [Experts: Dual-use H5N1 studies may not hasten pandemic response](#)
- [WHO: Preliminary Consultation on H5N1 Research Issues](#)

FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov

MDCH'S [MONTHLY](#) FLU POSTERS

1st National Immunization Conference Online (NICO)

The 1st NICO, a virtual conference, will take place March 26-28, 2012. Workshops will include multiple presentations and will be one hour in length, and will be recorded. For more information go to the CDC's National Immunization Conference [section](#).

Childhood Immunization Champion Award

Nominations for the CDC Childhood Immunization Champion awards are due by Friday, March 2.

More information about the award and eligibility criteria is posted [online](#).

Michigan Immunization Timely Tips (MITT)

The February 2012 issue of MITT, filled with the latest immunization news, has been posted [online](#).